

The Corporation of the Township of Mattice – Val Côté

Meeting 24-16 (regular)

November 27th, 2024

Minutes of the regular meeting of Council held on November 27th, 2024, at 7:00 pm, in the Municipal Council Chambers at the Town Hall, 500 Highway 11, Mattice, Ontario.

Present:

Mayor – Marc Dupuis
Councilor – Steve Brousseau
Councilor – Sophie Gagnon
Councilor – Joyce Malenfant
Councilor – Réginald Manning

Staff

CAO/Clerk – Guylaine Coulombe
Treasurer – Annie Plamondon

Others

Claudine Brunelle and Lyne Malenfant (left prior to caucus)
Renée-Pier Fontaine - Hearst Medias (left prior to caucus)

1. Opening of meeting
The Mayor opened the meeting at 7:00 pm
2. Approval of the Order of Business
- Resolution 24-219
3. Pecuniary interest
Councilor Brousseau declared an interest at item 7.1e) and a conflict at item 11.2
4. Delegation, Presentation, Meeting requested by Council
Nil
5. Adoption of minutes of previous Council meeting
- Resolution 24-220
6. Treasurer's report
6.1 Financial report
- Resolution 24-221

- 6.2 Verbal report – hot water tank – community hall
- Resolution 24-222

7. CAO's report

7.1 Resolutions/requests for support

- a) Township of McGarry – Land Transfer Tax and GST
 - Resolution 24-223
- b) Municipality of Leamington, Township of Howick – cost increase for OPP services
 - Resolution 24-224
- e) Township of Terrace Bay – shortages of paramedics and EMS personnel
 - Resolution 24-225

The following requests were received and filed:

- c) Township of Papineau – Cameron – building code amendments to increase construction of affordable housing
- d) City of Toronto – opposition to proposed amendments in Bill 212 – bicycle lanes
- f) Township of Terrace Bay – tripartite agreement for Billy Bishop Airport

- 7.2 Shallow Lake – Lakeshore Capacity Assessment – to develop policy on the subject, the OP and the ZBL have to be amended – cost estimates to be obtained from planning consultants in this regard. CAO received conflicting opinions with respect to the request for a secondary dwelling unit/garden suite and must look into this matter further.
 - Resolution 24-226

7.3 The agenda item that was originally numbered 7.3 will now be considered under section 11.4

- 7.4 Centre de formation – rental space in the basement
 - Resolution 24-227

- 7.5 New Board of Health – representation
 - Resolution 24-228

- 7.6 2025 Municipal insurance coverage – Council will consider the savings involved before deciding if property insurance coverage should be removed from certain buildings
 - Resolution 24-229

- 7.7 Annual price lists revision – municipal and administrative services, rentals
 - Resolution 24-230

- 7.8 Request for municipal services
 - Resolution 24-231

7.9 Emergency locate requests

- Resolution 24-232

7.10 SmartSense program by SustainErgy

- Resolution 24-233

7.11 Culvert replacement

- Resolution 24-234

7.12 Report – various items

- a) Training/meetings attended
- b) Information provided
- c) Complaints
- Filed

d) For Council's consideration

i) Fire Department Christmas party – should the firefighters wish to organize a party in 2024, the Municipality will provide the venue. Reinstating a municipal Christmas party will be considered during the preparation of the 2025 budget.

- Agreed

ii) Holiday season schedule – presented with explanations

- Agreed

iii) Emergency management committee – will meet prior to the next regular meeting of Council

- Agreed

iv) Future of the ice rink – as requested by TSSA, an insurer representative inspected the refrigeration equipment on November 8th last and will submit a report with recommendations

- Deferred

8. Mayor's report

8.1 Verbal report

a) Canada Post services in Val Côté

- Resolution 24-235

b) Verbal report of the first meeting of the new OPP Detachment – James Bay Board 1, held in Hearst on November 21st, 2024

9. Councillors' reports

A. Councillor Brousseau

- Verbal report of the MVC Public Library Board meeting held on November 19th, 2024

B. Councillor Gagnon

- Mentioned that the Christmas Fair will take place at the school on December 8th next
- Asked Council to consider bringing back the Snowman contest or something similar to it

C. Councilor Malenfant

- Verbal report of the Hearst Planning Board meeting held in Hearst on October 23rd, 2024
- Verbal report of the MVC Public Library Board meeting held on October 30th, 2024

D. Councilor Manning

Nil

10. By-laws

Nil

11. Caucus

- a) Caucus – Resolution 24-236
- b) Regular meeting – Resolution 24-237

12. Minutes/Periodic reports/Correspondence

The following documents were received and filed:

- 12.1 Hours of work – October 2024
- 12.2 OPP – response to request for increased presence in the community
- 12.3 Town of Cochrane – invitation to attend training offered by MMAH
- 12.4 MECP – cyber-attacks to water and wastewater plants
- 12.5 OCWA – cyber insurance
- 12.6 Ontario Honours and Awards – Order of Ontario
- 12.7 FONOM – Sustainable Northern Ontario Economic Development course

13. Resolutions

Agenda

Resolution 24-219: Steve Brousseau - Réginald Manning
THAT the agenda be hereby accepted.

Carried

Minutes

Resolution 24-220: Joyce Malenfant - Sophie Gagnon
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of Council's regular meeting 24-15, held on October 22nd, 2024 be hereby adopted.

Carried

Financial report

Resolution 24-221: Steve Brousseau – Sophie Gagnon
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the financial report ending October 31st 2024 be hereby approved as circulated.

Carried

Hot water tank

Resolution 24-222: Steve Brousseau – Joyce Malenfant
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council hereby approves the purchase of a on-demand hot water tank for the community hall at a purchase price of approximately TWO THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$2,800.00), plus taxes and installation.

Carried

Land Transfer Tax and GST

Resolution 24-223: Marc Dupuis – Joyce Malenfant
WHEREAS municipalities face growing infrastructure needs, including roads, bridges, public transit, water systems and other critical services, which are essential to community well-being and economic development, and;
WHEREAS the current sources of municipal revenue, including property taxes and user fees, are insufficient to meet these increasing demands for infrastructure investment, and;
WHEREAS the Province of Ontario currently collects the Land Transfer Tax (LTT) on property transactions in municipalities across the province, generating significant revenue that is not directly shared with municipalities, and;
WHEREAS the federal government collects the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on property transactions, a portion of which could be directed to municipalities to address local infrastructure needs, and;
WHEREAS redistributing a portion of the LTT and of the GST to municipalities would provide a predictable and sustainable source of funding for local infrastructure projects without creating a new tax burden on residents or homebuyers, and;
WHEREAS this redistribution would allow municipalities to better plan and invest in long-term infrastructure initiatives, supporting local economic growth and improving the quality of life for residents.
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby support Resolution no. 333/2024 made by the Township of McGarry requesting the provincial government to consider redistributing a portion of the Land Transfer Tax collected on property transactions to municipalities and calling upon the federal government to allocate a percentage of the Goods and Services Tax collected on property sales to municipalities, and;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this redistribution of the LTT and GST should be structured to provide predictable and sustainable funding to municipalities, allowing for better long-term planning and investment in infrastructure projects that benefit local communities, thus ensuring that local

governments receive a fair share of the revenue to address critical infrastructure needs, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Township of McGarry, to Premier Doug Ford, to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and to our local parliament representatives MPP Guy Bourgouin and MP Carol Hughes.

Carried

OPP services

Resolution 24-224: Joyce Malenfant – Réginald Manning
WHEREAS the 2025 OPP annual billings represent significant increases for many Ontario municipalities, and;
WHEREAS the downloading of costs such as these from the province and the subsequent significant cost increases are not feasible or sustainable for small, rural municipalities in Ontario who are bound to raising their revenue solely through property taxes and user fees.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby support the Resolution made on November 4th 2024 by Council for the Township of Howick and the Resolution made on November 12th 2024 by Council for the Municipality of Leamington, immediately calling upon the Ontario Government to implement sustainable funding for small, rural municipalities by reabsorbing the cost of the Ontario Provincial Police Force back into the provincial budget with no cost recovery to municipalities or to at least reduce the increase to a more manageable one, in line with historical trends, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Township of Howick, to the Municipality of Leamington and to our local parliament representatives, MPP Guy Bourgouin and MP Carol Hughes.

Carried

Paramedics and EMS personnel

Resolution 24-225: Sophie Gagnon – Marc Dupuis
WHEREAS the rolling shortages of paramedics and EMS personnel in the region present a significant risk to public safety and healthcare services in northern communities, which are disproportionately affected by the province-wide shortage of paramedics, and;

WHEREAS recruitment and retention issues, including insufficient wages and benefits, lack of mental health supports, frequent exposure to traumatic experiences and inadequate recovery time between work periods are causing high turnover rates and burnout among EMS workers.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby support Resolution no. 266-2024 made by the Township of Terrace Bay, requesting that the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health, take immediate action to address the funding shortfalls and structural challenges in the delivery of EMS services in northern communities, including: 1) increasing provincial funding to support EMS services and reduce the financial burden on municipalities; 2) implementing incentives such as “learn and stay” grants to encourage paramedics to live and work in northern Ontario and 3) enhancing support systems for EMS workers, including improved wages, benefits and mental health resources, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Township of Terrace Bay, to the Minister of Health and to our local parliament representatives, MPP Guy Bourgouin and MP Carol Hughes.

Carried

Lakeshore Capacity
Assessment

Resolution 24-226: Joyce Malenfant - Sophie Gagnon

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby receive and adopt the final report, dated October 28th 2024, on the Shallow Lake Lakeshore Capacity Assessment prepared by Hutchinson Environmental Sciences Ltd. and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the report be distributed to the Board of Health and to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, as recommended therein.

Carried

Rental space

Resolution 24-227: Steve Brousseau – Réginald Manning

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council hereby authorizes the monthly rental of an office space in the basement of the municipal complex to the Centre de formation de Hearst, for the period of December 1st, 2024 to June 30th, 2025, on the terms and conditions outlined in the CAO's memo, as circulated, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this matter be brought back before Council in the spring of 2025 to determine whether said rental agreement should be extended.

Carried

New Board of Health

Resolution 24-228: Steve Brousseau – Réginald Manning
WHEREAS three current Directors of the Porcupine Health Unit Board of Health, representing the Township of Hornepayne, the Town of Hearst and the Municipalities of Mattice – Val Côté, Opatika and Val Rita – Harty, are interested in representing the Rural North region on the new Board of Health for Northeastern Health Unit, which will come into effect on January 1st, 2025, and;

WHEREAS the name of the municipal appointee for the seven municipalities that form the Rural North seat must be provided to the Porcupine Health Unit by December 13th, 2024, and;

WHEREAS it is up to the seven municipalities to work together to jointly appoint a member.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby support the appointment of Mayor Marc Dupuis as the Rural North representative on the New Board of Health, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, in order to establish a fair and equitable process and to plan for the foreseeable future, the CAO communicate the following proposal to the other six municipalities: a) the three municipalities that have demonstrated an interest in representing our region will occupy said position on the new Board of Health on an alternating basis over the course of the next ten years, to complete the current term (2025-2026) and for the following two terms (2026-2030, 2030-2034) and b) in 2034, a similar exercise will be conducted amongst the seven municipalities to assess interest and to assign representation, on an alternating basis, for upcoming terms.

Carried

2025 Municipal Insurance

Resolution 24-229: Steve Brousseau – Réginald Manning
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby authorizes payment to Assurances Robichaud, in the amount of ONE HUNDRED and FOURTEEN THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED EIGHTY-NINE (\$114,589.52) DOLLARS and 92 cents, for the 2025 municipal insurance coverage.

Carried

Annual price lists
revision

Resolution 24-230: Steve Brousseau – Joyce Malenfant
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the price lists for administrative services and for arena rentals remain unchanged for 2025, and;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the hourly rate for the use of municipal equipment each be increased by TEN DOLLARS (\$10.00) in 2025, save and except for the following that remain unchanged: the steamer (used by residents), lot measurements, closing/opening water and sanitary valves and the tiller rental.

Carried

Request for municipal
services

Resolution 24-231: Réginald Manning - Joyce Malenfant
WHEREAS residents of a property located on Gagnon Road presented a request for snow removal and garbage collection services from the Municipality in light of a recent increase in their property taxes, and;
WHEREAS property taxes are determined by the assessed value of the property and improvements made on a property usually increase its value, and;
WHEREAS this particular property is located on a summer road, and;
WHEREAS similar requests were brought before Council in the past with respect to summer roads and road allowances;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council is not prepared to reconsider its position on the matter and will not be offering municipal services to properties that are not located on year-round maintained roads.

Carried

Emergency locate
requests

Resolution 24-232: Steve Brousseau – Joyce Malenfant
BE IT RESOLVED THAT, commencing on December 1st, 2024, emergency locate requests occurring outside of regular business hours be directed to a municipal employee who will take on the responsibility of contacting the required staff to respond to said request, and;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a FIFTY DOLLARS (\$50.00) annual fee be paid to said employee to assume this responsibility and that a fee of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00) be paid to him for every call handled in this regard.

Carried

SmartSence program	<p><u>Resolution 24-233:</u> Steve Brousseau – Marc Dupuis BE IT RESOLVED THAT SustainErgy Group Inc. is hereby authorized to pre-apply on the Municipality's behalf, at no cost, for 100% funding from FCM in order to provide and install the SmartSence program to track and analyse our energy use.</p> <p>Carried</p>
Culvert replacement	<p><u>Resolution 24-234:</u> Steve Brousseau – Joyce Malenfant BE IT RESOLVED THAT the contract for the replacement of the culvert located on the south side of the railroad track leading to Lemieux Street be granted to Morin Construction for the sum of ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED and THIRTY-TWO DOLLARS (\$1,832.50) and FIFTY CENTS, plus taxes.</p> <p>Carried</p>
Canada Post services in Val Côté	<p><u>Resolution 24-235:</u> Marc Dupuis – Sophie Gagnon BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council firmly support the maintenance of postal services in Val Côté, and; BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, if required, a letter of support be provided towards the individual who wishes to continue to offer said services from their current location.</p> <p>Carried</p>
Caucus	<p><u>Resolution 24-236:</u> Steve Brousseau – Sophie Gagnon BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council go into a closed meeting at 8:29 pm to adopt the minutes of a closed meeting, to discuss labour relations, the acquisition or disposition of land and information supplied in confidence by another level of government.</p> <p>Carried</p>
Regular meeting	<p><u>Resolution 24-237:</u> Joyce Malenfant – Sophie Gagnon BE IT RESOLVED THAT the regular meeting of Council resume at 8:56 pm.</p> <p>Carried</p>
Minutes	<p><u>Resolution 24-238:</u> Réginald Manning – Joyce Malenfant BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of Council's closed meeting 24-15, held on October 22nd, 2024 be hereby adopted.</p> <p>Carried</p>

- Part-time position Resolution 24-239: Sophie Gagnon - Réginald Manning
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the part-time labour position be
offered to Marcel Plamondon.

Carried
- Private Member's Bill Resolution 24-240: Marc Dupuis – Sophie Gagnon
BE IT RESOLVED THAT a letter of support be provided
towards a Private Members's Bill, to be presented by MPP Guy
Bourgouin, seeking to amend certain training requirements
under the Highway Traffic Act.

Carried
14. Next regular meeting: Wednesday, December 18th, 2024, at 7:30 pm
15. Confirmatory by-law Resolution 24-241: Réginald Manning – Sophie Gagnon
BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law no. 1005, being a By-law to
confirm the proceedings of Council on Wednesday, November
27th, 2024, be hereby adopted.

Carried
16. Adjournment: 9:09 pm Resolution 24-242: Joyce Malenfant - Steve Brousseau
BE IT RESOLVED THAT this regular meeting of Council held
on November 27th, 2024, be adjourned at 9:09 pm.

Carried

Read and confirmed on December 18th, 2024

Mayor

CAO/Clerk